

Governor's Leadership in the Arts Award

2007 Support of Children Through Arts Education Award presented to Beverley Taylor Sorenson

*Presented by 2007 First Lady of Utah,
Mary Kay Huntsman*

If Ted Sizer's notion is true that "revolution means changing the conversation," then Beverley Taylor Sorenson's vision, commitment, and work has surely brought about an arts education revolution in the state of Utah.

Beverley believes arts education is a powerful vehicle to enhance and accelerate children's learning and development. Since founding **art works for kids!** in 1995, Ms. Sorenson has donated \$20 million to fund the teaching of artists in Utah elementary schools and to augment and create arts education programs and classes at Utah universities.

Ms. Sorenson's vision was grounded in her beliefs that educating the "whole child" is important and that a rigorous, sequential arts education is vital to the development of the child. Deeply influenced by her own childhood experiences – rich in music, dance, theatre, and art – as well as her experience as a New York City elementary school teacher, Ms. Sorenson has observed that children with an arts education develop a real understanding of excellence, improve habits of mind, gain self-confidence, and increase empathy. Furthermore, she believes that these children are more apt to grow up knowing who they are, expand their unique talents and skills, and participate more fully in Utah's creative economy.

